

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 OMB-01

EB-07 AGR-05 TRSE-00 CU-02 /115 W

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P 071150Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8829

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIENHOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 399

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB  
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT-- JANUARY 7, 1975

GENERAL

1. KC TROOPS BLASTED THEIR WAY INTO THE NEW YEAR WITH MAJOR ATTACKS ALL AROUND PHNOM PENH. THE 7TH DIVISION NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH WAS HARD HIT AND THE ENEMY ROLLED UP A NUMBER OF POSITIONS NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL AND ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG FROM WHICH KC GUNNERS FIRED SOME FORTY 107MM ROCKETS INTO DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH. OTHER SECTORS OF THE DEFENSE PERIMETER HAVE HELD, ALTHOUGH THE KC HAVE GOTTEN 81MM MORTAR, ROCKET AND POSSIBLY 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS PERILOUSLY CLOSE TO POCHENTONG AIRPORT. MORE SERIOUS ARE KC GAINS ALONG THE MEKONG, WHERE THEY CRIPPLED A FANK BRIGADE TO CUT ROUTE 1 ADJACENT TO A CHOKE POINT ON THE WATERWAY AND ROLLED UP A NUMBER OF NAVAL POSITIONS ON THE LOWER MEKONG. MAJOR FANK EFFORTS WILL BE NEEDED TO PERMIT SAFE TRANSIT OF VITAL MEKONG CONVOYS. THE MILITARY SITUATION IS NOW TENUOUSLY UNDER CONTROL AROUND THE CAPITAL CITY THANKS TO FANK'S TACTICAL AIR, FIREPOWER AND GREATER MOBILITY. THE FANK COMMAND HAS REACTED STRONGLY AND DECISIVELY TO EACH OF THE ENEMY INITIATIVES.  
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FOUR BRIGADES HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM THE PROVINCES TO COUNTER THE ENEMY OFFENSIVE. CONSIDERABLE HARD FIGHTING LIES AHEAD BOTH AROUND THE CAPITAL AND ALONG THE MEKONG. THE ATTACKS HAVE GENERATED ABOUT 35,000 REFUGEES.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRESIDENT LON NOL RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH FROM HIS SEASIDE WORKING VACATION JANUARY 3. WHILE IN KOMPONG SOM

HE TOLD A FOREIGN JOURNALIST WHO ASKED WHETHER THE MARSHAL WOULD RESIGN TO GET ALKS STARTED THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO TALK OF CONDITIONS AT THIS TIME, SINCE THE UN HAS APPROVED THE PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. COMMENT: THIS PART OF THE INTERVIEW APPEARED IN THE VERNACULAR PRESS AND IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE MARSHAL CHOSE TO SIDESTEP THE QUESTION RATHER THAN CATEGORICALLY TO DENY ANY INTENT TO STEP DOWN.

3. A VERNACULAR DAILY REPORTED THAT SIHANOUK TOLD SENATOR MANSFIELD THAT HE WILL AGREE TO TALKS IF A) THE U.S. AGREES TO PAY FOR ALL WAR DAMAGES; B) THE EIGHT FORMER KHMER PROVINCES NOW PART OF SOUTH VIETNAM ARE RETURNED AND C) WAR PROFITEERS IN PHNOM PENH ARE SWEEPED AWAY.

AFP PICKED THE ITEM UP AND GAVE IT WIDE ENOUGH PLAY THAT SIHANOUK ISSUED A DENIAL. COMMENT: WE WILL SEE MORE OF THESE ABSURDITIES, WHICH REFLECT BOTH A GENUINE LONGING FOR PEACE AND LACK OF REALITY, ESPECIALLY IF ANY REAL MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE DEVELOPS. THE STORY WAS, OF COURSE, WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION WHATSOEVER; THE SENATOR DENIED HAVING MET WITH SIHANOUK DURING HIS CHINA TRIP.

4. LYCEES REOPENED JANUARY 3. MOST STUDENTS RESUMED CLASSES, BUT SOME TEACHERS ARE AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE REPORTING IN. LYCEE OFFICIALS HAVE ONLY ASSIGNED 10 OR 11 HOURS OF TEACHING PER WEEK, A DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF WORKING HOURS SET DURING THE 1974 TEACHERS' STRIKE.

5. THE KHMER PRESS HEAVILY REPORTED SENATOR THURMOND'S ONE-DAY VISIT TO CAMBODIA AND GKR LEADERS GOT A NEEDED PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST FROM THEIR MEETING WITH THE RANKING CONFIDENTIAL

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MINORITY MEMBER OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. IN HIS DEPARTURE STATEMENT, THE SENATOR SAID HE HOPED THE KHMER REPUBLIC WILL REACH A PEACE SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL INSURE FREEDOM FOR ITS PEOPLE. HE NOTED THAT IF CONGRESS PROVIDES NEEDED AMMUNITION, THE WAR COULD BE ENDED QUICKLY AND SUCCESSFULLY.

6. UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE CARLYLE MAW SPENT A DAY IN PHNOM PENH CONFERRING WITH THE EMBASSY AND MEDTC ON CAMBODIA ASSISTANCE NEEDS.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

7. PRESIDENT FORD SIGNED THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT DECEMBER 30, BUT NOTED THAT LIMITATIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO INDOCHINA, PARTICULARLY CAMBODIA, POSED PROBLEMS TO OUR

INTERESTS, AMONG WHICH IS "TO EFFECT AN EARLY END TO FIGHTING AND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT" IN CAMBODIA, WHICH HE SAID WAS ALSO AN OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION. HE STATED HIS INTENTION TO TALK WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ABOUT AID TO CAMBODIA SOON.

GRUNK/FUNK

8. SIHANOUK SAID THAT THE CPNLF (THE ARMY) OFFENSIVE AROUND PHNOM PENH IS "CAMBODIA'S ELOQUENT AND FULL REPLY TO THOSE...WHO DOUBT THE FIRM DETERMINATION OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE IN TAKING UP ARMS...UNTIL FINAL VICTORY.." IN-COUNTRY CLANDESTINE RADIO HAS SO FAR REPORTED "STRAIGHT NEWS" FROM THE BATTLEFIELD WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT OR GLOWING PREDICTIONS.

9. ARMY COMMANDER KEIU SAMPHAN'S DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR GREETINGS APPEALED TO HIS TROOPS AND OTHERS AT THE FRONT TO LAUNCH "THE MOST VIGOROUS AND POWERFUL OFFENSIVE... ON ALL THREE STRATEGIC BATTLEFIELDS, THAT IS, AROUND PHNOM PENH AND IN PHNOM PENH, ON...STRATEGIC ARTERIES, AND AT VARIOUS PROVINCIAL CAPITALS.." CLANDESTINE RADIO ALSO APPEALED FOR AN UPRISING IN PHNOM PENH IN THE WAKE OF THE JANUARY 1 OFFENSIVE. THOSE UNABLE TO REVOLT MAY DEFECT IN THE ASSURANCE OF A WARM WELCOME, THE BROADCAST ADDED.

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AMCONSUL UDORN  
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USMISSION USUN NY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 399

10. PRG PRESIDENT HUYNH TAN PHAT, WITH IS FOREIGN  
MINISTER MADAME NGUYEN THI BINH, DEFENSE MINISTER TRAN  
NAM TRUNG AND OTHERS IN TWO, VISITED THE "NORTHERN AND  
EASTERN" REGIONS OF CAMBODIA FROM DECEMBER 25-29 "TO  
STRENGTHEN MILITANT SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS  
..." KEIU SAMPHAN AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY MINISTERS WEL-  
COMED THEM AT THE BORDER.

ECONOMIC

11. SINCE JANUARY 1, ABOUT 35,000 PEOPLE HAVE SO FAR FLED THE FIGHTING. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE MINISTRY OF REFUGEES HAVE RESPONDED TO THE REFUGEES' NEEDS VERY WELL, AND OTHER GKR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET, HAVE PLAYED ACTIVE ROLES HELPING DISTRIBUTE RELIEF SUPPLIES TO EASE THE REFUGEES' PLIGHT.

12. EMERGENCY SHELTER CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY FOR 17,000 PEOPLE WHO FLED FROM FIGHTING IN THE NORTHWEST OFF ROUTE 5. ANOTHER 9,000 NEW REFUGEES HAVE SETTLE ALONG ROUTE 4 SOME 10 KILOMETERS FROM PHNOM PENH. ALONG ROUTE 1 ON THE CAPITAL'S SOUTHEASTERN OUTSKIRTS, 3,000 PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN LOCAL TEMPLES. THEY HAVE RECEIVED RICE AND OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES. THE 3,000 REFUGEES LOCATED AT THE CHRUI CHANGWAR EPINSULA NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH  
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HAVE BEEN GIVEN EMERGENCY COMMODITIES AND MEDICAL ATTENTION.

13. DESPITE THE FIGHTING, FOOD PRICES IN PHNOM PENH HAVE REMAINED STEADY. FRESH AND OCEAN FISH JUMPED SHARPLY, BUT DRIED FISH PRICES DROPPED, TO PRODUCE A TWO PERCENT PRICE RISE OVERALL. THE BLACK MARKET EXCHANGE RATE DROPPED FOUR PERCENT TO 1,700 RIELS PER DOLLAR BUT WAS STILL ABOVE THE OFFICIAL (FREE MARKET) RATE AND LOWEST ACCEPTED BID RATE OF 1,650 ON THE NOU-VEAU MARCHE IMPORT MARKET. GOLD DROPPED FROM \$188 TO \$176 PER COUNCH.

14. ON JANUARY 5, 32,279 M/T OF RICE (APPROXIMATELY 13,000 M/T OF WHICH IS LOCAL RICE) WERE ON HAND IN PHNOM PENH. ON THE BASIS OF 750 M/T AVERAGE DISTRIBUTION PER DAY, THE STOCK REPRESENTS A 43-DAY SUPPLY. NO DELIVERIES WERE MADE DURING THE WEEK BECAUSE OF THE FIGHTING. SOME 10,700 M/T ARE IN SAIGON READY FOR DELIVERY UP THE MEKONG.

15. CIVILIAN POL STOCKS AMOUNT TO NEARLY ONE MONTH'S SUPPLY.

MILITARY

16. AT 0130 ON JANUARY FIRST ENEMY FORCES LAUNCHED HEAVY GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST ALL QUADRANTS OF THE PHNOM PENH DEFENSIVE PERIMETER. SIX BRIDGES ALONG ROUTE 61 RUNNING NORTH OUT OF THE CITY UP THE CHRUI CHANGWAR PENINSULA FELL TO ENEMY HANDS. A SEVENTH BRIDGE HAS HELD FOR SIX DAYS AGAINST ALMOST CONSTANT ATTACKS. FANK CLAIMS 103 ENEMY KILLED IN THIS AREA AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS ARE

UNDERWAY TO RETAKE THE LOST BRIDGES AND TO REOPEN THE ROUTE. LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN REPORTED.

17. ACROSS THE MEKONG, THE KC HIT 84TH BRIGADE HEAD-QUARTERS AND OVERRAN THE VIHEAR SUOR MILITARY SUBDISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. THREE PARATROOP BATTALIONS REINFORCED, LINKED UP WITH THE 84TH BRIGADE, AND RETOOK THE LOST SUB-DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, GREATLY ENHANCING THE GOVERNMENT SITUATION ON THE EAST BANK. AS OF JANUARY 7 ENEMY ELEMENTS  
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ELEMENTS WERE STILL HOLDING OUT ON THE MEKONG'S EAST BANK AS THEIR COMRADES FURTHER EAST LAUNCHED DAILY ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST PHNOM PENH CITY. FROM JANUARY 1-7, FORTY-ONE ROCKETS WERE FIRED AT THE CITY, CAUSING SIX KILLED AND 29 WOUNDED.

18. SOUTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL, ENEMY FORCES ATTACKED ALONG ROUTE ONE, FORCING THE 36TH BRIGADE TO WITHDRAW WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES TO TWO OF ITS BATTALIONS. NAVAL POSITIONS ALONG THE MEKONG SOUTH TO THE VIETNAM BORDER ALSO CAME UNDER HEAVY ATTACKS AND SEVERAL WITHDREW OR WERE OVERRUN. ENEMY PRESSURE IS CONTINUING ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER AND ALONG ROUTE ONE. COMMENT: MAJOR FANK EFFORTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PERMIT VITAL MEKONG RESUPPLY CONVOYS TO TRAVEL TO PHNOM PENH.

19. THE THIRD DIVISION IN THE SOUTHWEST SECTOR REPORTED HEAVY ENEMY ATTACKS; HOWEVER, DIVISION UNITS, INCLUDING THE M-113 SQUADRON, COUNTERATTACKED VIGOROUSLY PUSHING THE ENEMY FROM THE AREA. THE THIRD REPORTED 181 ENEMY KILLED. A SECOND SWEEP SURPRISED A GROUP OF 200 ENEMY AND REPORTEDLY KILLED 100.

20. NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL, THE ENEMY DIRECTED HIS HEAVIEST ATTACKS IN A WEST TO EAST ARC AGAINST ELEMENTS OF THE 23RD BRIGADE AND 7TH DIVISION. FANK QUICKLY REINFORCED THE 23RD BRIGADE AND DIRECTED THAT OPERATIONS BEGIN TO CLEAR ENEMY FROM THE AREA. OVER ONE-HUNDRED ENEMY WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED IN THESE OPERATIONS. KC GUNNERS, HOWEVER, FIRED FORTY-SIX 107MM ROCKETS AND FORTY-THREE 81MM MORTAR AND ROCKET OR 105 HOWITZER ROUNDS AT POCHENTONG AIRPORT TO STOP THE KAF AIRCRAFT OPERATING THERE. SO FAR ALL ROUNDS HAVE BEEN OFF-TARGET, CAUSING NO DAMAGE IN THE AIRPORT AREA AND NO INTERRUPTION OF AIR TRAFFIC--COMMERCIAL OR MILITARY. OTHER ROUNDS HAVE HIT THE MAAQCTR39:5&".61(5 :4;"::25  
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373\$0149 BRIGADES, AS WELL AS THE DIVISION HEADQUARTERS  
ITSELF. A RELIEF FORCE IS SLOWLY DRIVING THE ENEMY  
FROM THE AREA WITH HARD FIGHTING AND HEAVY CASUALTIES  
ON BOTH SIDES. AS OF JANUARY 6, THE RELIEF FORCE HAD  
LINKED UP WITH ONE ISOLATED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND ON JAN. 7  
REACHED THE 7TH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS.

22. THROUGHOUT THE ATTACKS, KAF HAS REACTED WELL IN  
ITS EFFORT TO BLUNT THE ENEMY'S OFFENSIVE. OVER THE LAST  
SIX DAYS KAF AVERAGED 145 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES PER DAY--  
UP 40PERCENT OVER THE PREVIOUS WEEK.  
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: PPNH 399 SEC 2/2 PARA 20&21 GARBLED TEXT, CORRECTION  
TO FOLLOW

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## Message Attributes

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